

Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /065 W

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R 221019Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7410

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, NATO, NL

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON DUTCH DEFENSE BUDGET

1. ANNUAL TWO-DAY DEBATE IN LOWER HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT ON DEFENSE BUDGET BEGAN JAN 20. DEBATE HAS BEEN RATHER DESULTORY AFFAIR THUS FAR. DEFIN VREDELING IS TO REPLY TO QUESTIONS LATE EVENING OF JAN 21.

2. DURING CONVERSATION WITH MFA NATO DIRECTOR VAN EKELLEN, DCM WAS TOLD THAT BUDGET DEBATE HAD BEEN A "GREY" AFFAIR WITH MANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARLIAMENTARIANS ASKING ABOUT FUTURE PLANS FOR DEFENSE SPENDING.

VREDELING'S REPLY TO MOST OF THEM WILL PROBABLY BE EVASIVE ON
GROUNDS THAT ECONOMIC FACTORS ARE UNKNOWN AT PRESENT.

3. RADICAL PARTY HAS INTRODUCED A MOTION WHICH CALLS ON GON TO
GO BACK ON ITS PLEDGE NOT TO MAKE UNILATERAL REDUCTIONS IN ARMY
BEFORE MBFR IS COMPLETED. VAN EKELAN EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT AS
TO RATIONALE FOR MOTION WHICH HE SAID HAD NO HOPE OF ADOPTION.
QUESTION AS TO SOURCE OF 21-MILLION GULDERS WHICH NECESSARY
TO KEEP NEPTUNES FLYING THIS YEAR COULD PROVE DIFFICULT FOR
DEFMIN, ACCORDING TO VAN EEKELEN. VREDELING SIDE-STEPPED
QUESTION YESTERDAY BY SAYING THAT ANSWER COULD ONLY COME LATER
IN YEAR, BUT PARLIAMENTARIANS NOT LIKELY LET ISSUE LIE SINCE IT
OBVIOUS THAT SOMETHING ELSE MUST BE SACRIFICED TO TUNE OF
21-MILLION GULDERS.
GOULD

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Message Attributes

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